



**City of Santa Barbara  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2011**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Wiscomb

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners & Staff Present**

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb  
Commissioner W. Scott Burns  
Commissioner Chris Casebeer  
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commission Intern Michael Yi  
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp  
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey  
Executive Assistant Karla Megill  
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.  
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna  
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson  
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna  
Recreation Supervisor Terry Brown  
Neighborhood and Outreach Coordinator II Ricardo Venegas  
Neighborhood and Outreach Coordinator I Pete Leyva  
Water Resources Specialist Tim Burgess

**City Council Liaison Present**

Councilmember Grant House

**Commissioners & Staff Absent**

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Ms. Rapp requested that agenda item 10, Franklin Drop-In Center Update, be addressed prior to item 9, Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budget.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION**

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that Rich Hanna, Senior Recreation Supervisor, Aquatics, received the R. F. McFarland Award at the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Hall of Fame Banquet on Monday evening.

Commissioner Casebeer, Past President and current Board Member of the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table, recognized Mr. Hanna and made the presentation.

### **1. Recognition of the Fire Fighters and Police Officers Associations and PAL for their Support of the Eggstravaganza - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Santa Barbara Firefighter and Santa Barbara Police Officer Associations, and Police Activities League for their support of the annual Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Terry Brown, Recreation Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Mike DePonce, Fire Captain; Hank Homburg, Fire Engineer

### **2. Recognition of Annual Lower Westside Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize community volunteers for their service during the Annual Lower Westside Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Pete Leyva, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Coordinator
- Members of the Public: None

### **3. Recognition of Mormons Helping Hands Program - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Mormons Helping Hands Program volunteers for their volunteer services to help maintain Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager
- Members of the Public: Scott Houston

## **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Jacobson reported on the activities of the Santa Barbara Youth Council.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She further reported on the Youth Council Subcommittee activities.

## **COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **4. City Council to hear appeal of Parks and Recreation Commission decision on 507 Brosian Way.**

Ms. Zachary briefed the Commission that an appeal has been filed regarding the two Eucalyptus trees at 507 Brosian Way. She said that the appeal was scheduled to be heard by City Council on June 26th; however, since then, staff has determined that the third tree, for which the Commission postponed a decision, will be brought back to the Commission at the June 22nd meeting. Ms. Zachary said staff is working with the City Clerk's Office staff and the appellants to reschedule the appeal for late July.

Ms. Zachary briefed the Commission that staff has scheduled a community meeting for Wednesday, June 8th at 6PM, at the MacKenzie Adult Building. She said the purpose of the meeting is to have a discussion about the Ficus Trees on Upper State Street. Ms. Zachary said there are over a dozen trees on upper State Street, and over the years, there have been a range of issues associated with the management and maintenance of them given the infrastructure surrounding the trees. She said several of the trees have been lost recently, and it looks as though more may need to be removed soon. Ms. Zachary said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee has done a great deal of work to come up with some recommendations, but before staff brings those recommendations to the Commission, staff wants to have a community meeting to talk about some of the issues with the trees and some of the preliminary recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee so that some of the public input can be presented. Ms. Zachary indicated the noticing will go out to adjacent land owners within 500 feet within the 3100 to 3500 block of State Street.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Youth Inter Yi provided this report.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **5. Summary of Council Actions - For Information**

### **6. Approval of Minutes - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2011.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2011.

Commissioner Longstreet abstained.

## STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

### 7. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item7A(1) - Peter Debrumkops

#### A. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 52 Calle Capistrano - Tipuana tipu, Tipu - Peter and Kathryn Debrunkops

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to accept the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for removal and replacement of trees at 52 Calle Capistrano.

#### B. Approve the following Street Tree Master Plan changes.

1. 2400 - 3000 blocks of De La Vina St. - Varying parkway sizes.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 5/0 to accept the tree list as provided by the Street Tree Advisory Committee for the 2400 - 3000 blocks of De La Vina Street.

2. 200 - 400 blocks of W. Valerio St. - Add a shade tree.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to accept the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to adopt the Sweetshade tree for the 200 - 400 blocks of W. Valerio Street

3. 3100 block of Lucinda Lane

Commissioner Rocky Jacobson moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to accept the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to change the designated street tree from the Australian Willow to the Flaxleaf Paperbark for the 3100 block of Lucinda Lane.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 8. MacKenzie Park Parking Lot Storm Water Infiltration Project - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the MacKenzie Park Parking Lot Storm Water Infiltration Project.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager; Tim Burgess, Water Resources Specialist
- Members of the Public: None

## OLD BUSINESS

### 10. Franklin Drop-In Center Update - For Information

Recommendation: That Commission receive a report on the Franklin Youth Drop In Center.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Ricardo Venegas, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Coordinator; Carmen Garcia, Youth Center Coordinator
- Members of the Public: None

### 9. Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budget - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recommend to City Council the approval of the Park and Recreation Department General Fund, Creeks Fund, Golf Fund, and Capital Fund Budgets and Fees and Charges Schedule as proposed for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: None

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that there is one change to the budget, but does not involve any change in funds; the Department is working with the Finance Department to combine two Recreation Programs--6121, Facilities and Special Events, and 6131, Cultural Arts. She said these programs are the same types of activities, supervised by the same person, so for convenience and simplification, combining them makes sense. Ms. Rapp said that no action is required by the Commission regarding this process,

because there is no change in funding. Ms. Rapp said she simply wanted them to be aware of the change.

Ms. Rapp notified the Commission of upcoming City Council budget meetings and stated that adoption of the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st.

#### **CREEKS FUND:**

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council the approval of the Parks and Recreation Department Creeks Fund for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 as proposed with the recommendations of the Creeks Advisory Committee.**

#### **GOLF FUND:**

Commissioner Longstreet commented that many years ago when the Golf Fund was flush and the General Fund was not, the General Fund borrowed money from the Golf Course Fund. She commented that at this point in time, the City General Fund owes the support back to the Golf Course to keep it going and healthy. She said she is pleased to see the recommendations given; there is risk involved, but it is risk that should be backed by the City, because there were times when the City has asked for things from the Golf Course. Ms. Longstreet said she supports giving the Golf Course the opportunity to turn things around; none of the affects on the Golf Course were due to problems in the Golf Course itself, rather a combination of projects, weather, and the economy.

Chair Wiscomb concurred with Commissioner Longstreet's comments, and said the Golf Advisory Committee worked very hard. She thanked Intern Yi on his suggestions regarding fees for youth. Ms. Wiscomb commented that the Maintenance Pro Shop and Concessions have been working together on solutions to improve the golf experience and increase rounds and revenues, and concurred that the General Fund should support the Golf Course. She said that having a Municipal Golf Course is great for the Santa Barbara community. She further agreed that construction projects and the downturn in the economy affected the Golf Course.

Ms. Rapp clarified that the Golf Course budget does not include any designated funding from the General Fund, and any reference is more about the renegotiation of the construction loan that did come from the General Fund, which the Golf Course will be paying back, as it has other loans in the past.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council the approval of the Parks and Recreation Department Golf Fund including fees as proposed for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013.**

#### **CAPITAL FUND:**

Chair Wiscomb stated that when she was present at one of the City Council meetings where the Capital Fund budget was being presented and the \$200,000 for the Chase Palm Park Playground Replacement Project came up, Mayor Schneider wanted to pursue possible use of Redevelopment Agency funds for that project. She said she

would like the Commission to make a recommend that if that particular item gets Redevelopment Agency funding, that the allocated \$200,000 go into one of the Department's other much needed projects in the City.

Ms. Zachary indicated that staff has identified Chase Palm Park Playground as a potential for Redevelopment Agency funding. She said there are a number of projects staff is working on that currently only have General Fund support and are not in the RDA Zone. Ms. Zachary said that one of those projects is the replacement of the lower segments of the Mesa Lane Stairs, on which the Commission will be briefed in July. She said staff just received the draft 30% preliminary plans for the project and are planning to submit for Planning and Review this summer. Ms. Zachary said the proposed two-year budget includes potential partial funding for construction of the project. Staff anticipates construction will be \$600,000. She said the Commission might want to consider that project. She said it will be ready to go, it is needed, it does provide public benefit, and staff has always intended to find grant funding for the project.

Ms. Zachary highlighted other projects in the RDA Zone.

Chair Longstreet asked whether it is better to identify a specific project or refer to the Department's extensive capital needs list. She said there are so many projects staff can bring forward.

Ms. Rapp suggested a stronger position for the Commission would be to identify a specific project, only because Council will be giving staff direction to finalize the budget. She said at this point they need to indicate that level of detail. She further said that it is a good idea to indicate it is one of many unfunded deferred maintenance projects in the City. She said that in reviewing all of the projects, she and Ms. Zachary believe that it actually would have a higher level of priority because it has some current funding and is underway.

Commissioner Longstreet asked if the \$200,000 is dedicated capital funding or is it General Fund money. Ms. Rapp said that the Mayor asked whether the \$200,000 could qualify for RDA funds, and she then suggested that it could be used for another Parks and Recreation project. She said that discussion did take place as part of the Police Department budget discussion and trying to look for opportunities to fund other City priorities. Ms. Rapp said the \$200,000 is General Fund monies proposed to be spent in the capital budget; they could be shifted over and be spent on operations, but as one-time money.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council the approval of the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Fund as proposed for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013, and if Redevelopment Agency monies become available for improvements at Chase Palm Park, the Commission strongly recommends the allocated money be used at Mesa Lane Steps to continue the project and give leverage for grant funding in the future, with a comment that the Commission continues to be concerned about the lengthy capital projects in the parks and the lack of funding.**

#### **GENERAL FUND:**

Chair Wiscomb commented that the Administration budget, as proposed, has money to

assess and develop a comprehensive Parks Volunteer Program, something the Department does not currently have. She said the Department sponsors volunteer events and volunteer days, but there is a great opportunity to create a comprehensive Parks Volunteer Program. She said the program could help offset staff reductions and support park maintenance services. Ms. Wiscomb said volunteers could perform basic maintenance tasks. She said the problem with the volunteer program is not in the development, but with implementing a comprehensive volunteer program. She said that her further recommendations would be that the Commission makes a recommendation that the City Council:

- Support staff additions in Fiscal Year 2013 and future years to implement the Parks Volunteer Program.
- Authorize establishing standard design guidelines to be used in the design of public spaces that have aesthetic benefits yet be easy to maintain and project proponents must present annual maintenance costs and sources of funding involving designs of proposed improvements or establishment of parkways in public spaces maintained by the Parks Department.
- Authorize the Commission to have equal input with other Boards and Commissions involving the designs of proposed spaces, improvements, open spaces, parkways, public spaces etc. that are eventually maintained by Parks and Recreation department.
- Authorize staff to review the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) standards to identify potential practices, if any that may result in reduced maintenance man-hours for 2013 with minimal compromise to established IPM practices.

Ms. Wiscomb stated that in 2002 when the IPM program was implemented, IPM proponents agreed to establish a volunteer program for IPM, but the program was never implemented.

Commissioner Longstreet agreed that additional staff is needed to implement the volunteer program, but she said that volunteers do not replace a skilled workforce. She said that the current level of service cannot be maintained without a loss of horticultural resources in our parks. She said she wants to acknowledge that this level of service is not sustainable even if we get volunteers.

Commissioner Casebeer concurred with Commissioner Longstreet. He said in order to create volunteer programs, staff time and energy is needed; it is a major undertaking.

Commissioner Burns concurred. He said that the volunteer program could be tied in with the IPM Program.

Michael Yi interjected that the Youth Council wants to make sure that no more recreation programs are cut because participation in youth programs provide positive outlets for youth and reduce gang violence.

Commissioner Longstreet agreed and said that the focus of Recreation Programs is prevention, and programs that focus on prevention should not be cut, they should be expanded.

**INTERN MICHAEL YI DEPARTED AT 6:14 PM.**

Commissioner Jacobson suggested that staff approach individuals who have participated in the Memorial Tree and Bench Program and ask them to maintain the areas of the trees/benches they have memorialized.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that the City is wasting money putting in projects that cannot be maintained. She stressed that it needs to be looked at that way. She said she would like to see maintenance costs and sources of funding being identified before a project gets to design approval. Ms. Longstreet said there needs to be a way to weigh in on it earlier as a Department.

Regarding Integrated Pest Management, Chair Wiscomb asked the Commissioners if they have comments possibly identifying potential practices that may result in reduced maintenance man-hours Fiscal Year 2013.

Chair Wiscomb said she would like to see a commented that in these tough economic times, there is an increased demand for free or reduced cost services, and the amount of free services offered by the Department has been reduced; the Commission is concerned about that.

Commissioner Casebeer said he would like to see a statement that emphasizes the need and importance to maintain Neighborhood and Outreach Services, social programs, and recreational programs directed to the less fortunate and that the City not balance the budget on the backs of the less fortunate.

Commissioner Longstreet said that the City should not only *not* balance the budget on the backs of the less fortunate, but realize the cost-savings to the community through neighborhood programs that prevent violence; the Parks and Recreation Department is a complete partner with all the other agencies that provide a tremendous service.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that maintaining and/or implementing Parks and Recreation programs now will save costs in the future (police, jails, drug rehabilitation, etc.).

The Commission expressed concern for the cuts that have taken place in the area of Recreation Programs and staffing and cannot afford to lose any more.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council the approval of the Parks and Recreation Department General Fund and Fees and Charges Schedule as proposed for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 with the recommendations that will be crafted out of their comments and that they want to acknowledge the hard work of all of the staff who have risen to the occasion during these tough times and moved programs forward and been innovative, both in parks and in recreation, and are proud of the department.**

**Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to give the Commission Chair the authority to work with staff to craft the Commission's comments and approve them without further review by the rest of the Commission members.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:40 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

**Commissioner Rocky Jacobson moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director